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INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Mónica MARTÍNEZ (Ecuador)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "International drug control" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee considered the item jointly with item 103 at its 13th to 18th and 24th meetings, on 23, 24, 27 and 28 October and on 3 and 6 November 1997, and took action on the item at its 29th meeting, on 7 November 1997. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/52/SR.13-18, 24, 28 and 29).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Relevant chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 1997 (A/52/3);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session (A/52/296);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 1998 on the question of narcotic drugs (A/52/336);

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(d) Letter dated 23 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/127);

(e) Letter dated 28 August 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the declarations of the Eleventh Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group, held at Asunción on 23 and 24 August 1997 (A/52/347);

(f) Letter dated 23 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the communiqué of the twenty-eighth South Pacific Forum (A/52/413);

(g) Letter dated 1 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (A/52/447-S/1997/775).

4. At the 13th meeting, on 23 October, the Under-Secretary-General, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention made an introductory statement (see A/C.3/52/SR.13).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/52/L.14 AND CORR.1

5. At the 24th meeting, on 3 November, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution entitled, "International action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking" (A/C.3/52/L.14 and Corr.1). Subsequently, Albania, Armenia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Georgia, Guyana, Haiti, Iceland, Israel, Monaco, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Singapore and Uzbekistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the 29th meeting, on 7 November, Barbados, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mozambique, Poland, Senegal, Swaziland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.14 and Corr.1 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

8. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/148 of 21 December 1995 and 51/64 of 12 December 1996,

Gravely concerned that, despite continued increased efforts by States and relevant international organizations, there is a global expansion of illicit demand for, production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including synthetic and designer drugs, which threatens the health, safety and well-being of millions of persons, in particular young people, in all countries, as well as the political and socio-economic systems and the stability, national security and sovereignty of an increasing number of States,

Deeply alarmed by the growing and spreading violence and economic power of criminal organizations and terrorist groups engaged in drug trafficking activities and other criminal activities, such as money laundering and illicit traffic of arms and precursors and essential chemicals, and by the increasing transnational links between them, and recognizing that enhanced international cooperation and effective strategies are essential to achieve results against all forms of transnational criminal activities,

Convinced of the growing need for closer coordination and cooperation among States in combating drug-related crimes, such as terrorism, illicit arms trade and money laundering, and bearing in mind the role that could be played by both the United Nations and regional organizations in this respect,

Fully aware that States, the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and multilateral development banks need to accord a higher priority and political determination to dealing with this scourge, which undermines development, economic and political stability and democratic institutions, and the combat against which entails increasing economic costs for Governments and the irreparable loss of human lives,

Reaffirming and stressing the need for increased efforts to implement the comprehensive framework for international cooperation in drug control provided by the existing drug control conventions, the Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking[1] and the Comprehensive

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[1] See Report of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Vienna, 17-26 June 1987 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.I.18), chap. I, sect. B.

Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control,[2] the Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action[3] adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session, which was devoted to the question of international cooperation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic and psychotropic substances, the Declaration adopted by the World Ministerial Summit to Reduce the Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat,[4] the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control,[5] the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime[6] and other relevant international standards,

Underlining the importance of a balanced approach in efforts undertaken by Member States in the fight against illicit demand, production and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Recognizing the efforts of countries that produce narcotic drugs for scientific, medicinal and therapeutic uses to prevent the diversion of such substances to illicit markets and to maintain production at a level consistent with licit demand in line with the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,[7]

Convinced that civil society, including non-governmental organizations, can make an effective contribution to addressing the illicit drug problem,

Recognizing that the use of the Internet poses new opportunities and challenges to international cooperation in combating drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking,

Acknowledging that there are links, under certain circumstances, between poverty and the increase in the illicit production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and that the promotion of the economic development of countries affected by the illicit drug trade requires appropriate measures, including strengthened international cooperation in support of alternative and sustainable development activities in the affected areas of those countries, which have as their objectives the reduction and elimination of illicit drug production,

Stressing that respect for human rights is and must be an essential component of measures taken to address the drug problem,

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[2] Ibid., sect. A.

[3] Resolution S-17/2.

[4] A/45/262, annex.

[5] See A/49/139-E/1994/57.

[6] See A/49/748, annex, sect. I.A.

[7] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 520, No. 7515.

Emphasizing the need for a continued analysis of transit routes used by drug traffickers, which are constantly changing and expanding to include a growing number of countries and regions in all parts of the world,

Underlining the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the principal United Nations policy-making body on drug control issues, the leadership role and commendable work done by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme as the main focus for concerted international action and the important role of the International Narcotics Control Board as an independent monitoring authority, as set out in the international drug control treaties,

Recalling the important and central role of relevant United Nations bodies in evaluating the implementation by States parties of their obligations under the United Nations drug control treaties, as set out in those treaties,

Recalling its resolution 51/64, section IV, in which it decided to convene for three days in June 1998 a special session of the General Assembly, in order to consider the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities and to propose strategies, methods, practical activities and specific measures to strengthen international cooperation in addressing the problem of illicit drugs, and convinced that the special session will make a significant contribution to the effectiveness of the United Nations and its Member States in the fight against this global problem,

I

RESPECT FOR THE PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED IN THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING

1. Reaffirms that the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking must be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations;

2. Calls upon all States to intensify their actions to promote effective cooperation in the efforts to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking, so as to contribute to a climate conducive to achieving this end, on the basis of the principles of equal rights and mutual respect;

II

INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO COMBAT DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING

1. Renews its commitment to further strengthening international cooperation and substantially increasing efforts against the cultivation for illegal purposes, illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs, and to controlling and preventing the diversion of precursors and essential chemicals

used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic and psychotropic substances, in accordance with obligations of States under the United Nations drug control conventions, based on the principle of shared responsibility and taking into account experience gained;

2. Urges all States to ratify or accede to and implement all the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961[7] as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[8] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[9] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;[10]

3. Calls upon all States to adopt adequate national laws and regulations, to strengthen national judicial systems and to carry out effective drug control activities in cooperation with other States in accordance with those international instruments;

4. Requests the United Nations International Drug Control Programme:

(a) To continue to support the focus on regional, subregional and national strategies for drug abuse control, particularly the master-plan approach, and to complement those strategies with effective interregional strategies;

(b) To undertake additional measures to strengthen the dialogue and cooperation with multilateral development banks so that they may undertake lending and programming activities related to drug control in interested and affected countries, and to keep the Commission on Narcotic Drugs informed on further progress made in this area;

(c) To continue to provide legal assistance to Member States that request it in adjusting their national laws, policies and infrastructures to implement the international drug control conventions, as well as assistance in training personnel responsible for applying the new laws;

(d) To continue providing assistance to Member States requesting support in establishing or strengthening national drug detection laboratories;

(e) To continue to include in its report on illicit traffic in drugs an assessment of worldwide trends in illicit traffic and transit in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including methods and routes used, and to recommend ways and means for improving the capacity of States along those routes to deal with all aspects of the drug problem;

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[8] Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

[9] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[10] See Official Records of the United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November-20 December 1988, vol. I (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XI.5).

5. Reaffirms the danger and threat posed to civil society by illicit drug trafficking and its links to terrorism, transnational crime, money laundering and the illicit arms trade, and encourages Governments to deal with this threat and to cooperate to prevent the channelling of funds to and between those engaged in such activities;

6. Calls upon States to adopt effective measures to stem the illicit trade in small arms, which, as a result of its close link to the illicit drug trade, is generating within the societies of some States extremely high levels of crime and violence threatening the national security and economies of these States;

7. Acknowledges that there are links between the illicit production of, demand for and traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the economic and social conditions in the affected countries and that there are differences and diversity in the problems of each country;

8. Calls upon the international community to provide increased economic and technical support to Governments that request it for programmes of alternative and sustainable development, which have as their objectives the reduction and elimination of illicit drug production and which take fully into account the cultural traditions of peoples;

9. Recalls the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1995,[11] and stresses the importance of participation of youth organizations and youth in decision-making processes, in particular in relation to demand reduction programmes for illicit drugs;

10. Stresses the need for effective government action to prevent the diversion to illicit markets of precursors and essential chemicals, materials and equipment used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

11. Commends the valuable work, the reports and recommendations therein of the International Narcotics Control Board in monitoring the production and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances so as to limit their use to medical and scientific purposes, and urges increased efforts to implement its mandate under article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 concerning the monitoring of the movement of precursors and essential chemicals;

12. Notes that the International Narcotics Control Board needs sufficient resources to carry out its mandate, including under article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and therefore urges Member States to commit themselves in a common effort to assign adequate and sufficient budgetary resources to the International Narcotics Control Board, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/20 of 23 July 1996;

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[11] Resolution 50/81, annex.

13. Calls upon States to increase efforts, with international cooperation, to reduce and eliminate illegal crops from which narcotics are obtained, as well as to prevent and reduce the demand for and the consumption of illicit drugs, in accordance with their obligations under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;

14. Underlines the need for Governments, with international cooperation, to increase and implement alternative development programmes with the objective of reducing and eliminating the production of illicit drugs, taking into account the economic, social, cultural, political and environmental aspects of the area concerned;

15. Emphasizes the need to maintain the capacity of the International Narcotics Control Board, including through the provision of appropriate means by the Secretary-General and adequate technical support by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

16. Reaffirms the importance of achieving the objectives of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, 1991-2000, under the theme "A global response to a global challenge", by Member States, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations system;

17. Urges the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to complete its work on the draft declaration on the guiding principles of demand reduction being developed by the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in consultation with Member States, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its special session in 1998 for adoption, and calls upon Member States to continue to cooperate with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme by providing relevant information and their views on the draft declaration with due regard to the linkages between demand and supply reduction activities;

18. Urges also the Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly, to complete its work on a political commitment, money laundering, judicial cooperation, precursors, stimulants and alternative development, in preparation of the special session;

19. Welcomes Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/41 of 21 July 1997 on the implementation of comprehensive measures to counter the illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors, and calls upon Member States to strengthen their efforts to control precursors and their substitutes in cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board and to implement as a high priority the measures contained in that resolution;

20. Takes note of the Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation against Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, Distribution and Consumption of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors,[12] and welcomes the

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[12] Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/39, annex.

contribution of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East on international action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking;

III

GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION

1. Reaffirms the importance of the Global Programme of Action[1] as a comprehensive framework for national, regional and international action to combat illicit production of, demand for and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

2. Calls upon States to implement the mandates and recommendations of the Global Programme of Action, with a view to translating it into practical action for drug abuse control at the national, regional and international levels;

3. Urges all Governments and competent regional organizations to develop a balanced approach within the framework of comprehensive demand reduction activities, giving adequate priority to prevention, treatment, research, social reintegration and training, in the context of national strategic plans to combat drug abuse, which should include raising public awareness on the detrimental effects of drug abuse;

4. Calls upon the relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions and other concerned intergovernmental organizations and all actors of civil society, notably non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, sports associations, the media and the private sector, to cooperate more closely with and assist States in their efforts to promote and implement the Global Programme of Action;

5. Welcomes the efforts made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to facilitate reporting by Governments on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, and encourages them to pursue those efforts so as to increase the number of Governments that report on a regular basis;

6. Notes the efforts being made by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other United Nations bodies to obtain reliable data on drug abuse and illicit trafficking, including the development of the International Drug Abuse Assessment System, encourages the Programme, in cooperation with other United Nations bodies, to take further steps to facilitate the efficient collection of data so as to avoid duplication of effort, and encourages also the increased and timely provision of updated information by Member States;

7. Reaffirms the importance of strengthening the role of the International Narcotics Control Board and development of a unified information system for the collection and analysis of data concerning the nature, patterns and trends of the global problem of drug abuse, as called for by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1996/20;

8. Invites the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to continue providing assistance to Member States that request it in their efforts to establish appropriate mechanisms to collect and analyse data and to seek voluntary resources for this purpose;

9. Underlines the importance of precise and reliable information on the impact of the drug problem on the world economy;

10. Calls upon Member States to continue to make efforts to provide systematic, precise and updated information to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme on the various ways in which the drug problem affects their economies;

IV

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities;[13]

2. Decides that the special session will be held, as recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1997/238 of 21 July 1997, from 8 to 10 June 1998, and calls upon Member States to participate at a high political level;

3. Stresses that the special session should be devoted to assessing the existing situation within the framework of a comprehensive and balanced approach that includes all aspects of the problem, with a view to strengthening international cooperation to address the problem of illicit drugs within the framework of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[10] and other relevant conventions and international instruments;

4. Reaffirms that, at its special session, it will address the issues on the basis of the principle of shared responsibility and with full respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States;

5. Invites the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to continue to take all necessary measures to ensure adequate preparation of the special session;

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[13] E/1997/48.

6. Takes note of the Economic and Social Council decision 1997/234 of 21 July 1997, in which the Council decided that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-first session should devote at least five days to the preparation of the special session;

7. Notes with appreciation the initiatives of Member States aimed at providing inputs to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its capacity as a preparatory forum for the special session, including the convening of groups of high-level governmental experts;

8. Recognizes the important role played by non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action contained in the annex to Assembly resolution S-17/2 of 23 February 1990, and recognizes the need for their active involvement in preparations for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements for their substantive contribution and active involvement during the special session, and, in that context, invites the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to propose to Member States appropriate modalities for the effective involvement of non-governmental organizations in the special session;

9. Decides to invite States members of the specialized agencies of the United Nations that are not members of the United Nations to participate in the work of the special session in the capacity of observers;

10. Reaffirms the objectives of the special session contained in section IV, paragraphs 11 and 12, of its resolution 51/64, which provide the basis for the draft agenda of the special session;

11. Welcomes Economic and Social Council decision 1997/239 of 21 July 1997 on the preparations for the special session;

12. Invites the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its capacity as the preparatory organ, to report to the General Assembly at its special session on the preparations for the special session;

13. Stresses the importance of taking into account a gender perspective in preparing the outcomes of the special session;

14. Urges organs, organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, including multilateral development banks, to contribute fully to the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly, in particular by submitting as soon as possible to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, acting as the preparatory body for the special session, through the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, concrete recommendations on the issues to be addressed by the special session;

15. Requests the Secretary General to provide the necessary support to ensure the success of the special session and to give particular attention to the need for raising global awareness of the holding of the special session and of its importance;

V

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM-WIDE ACTION PLAN ON DRUG ABUSE CONTROL: ACTION BY ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

1. Supports the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control[5] as a vital tool for the coordination and enhancement of drug abuse control activities within the United Nations system;

2. Reaffirms the role of the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in coordinating and providing effective leadership for all United Nations drug control activities, so as to increase cost-effectiveness and ensure coherence of action within the Programme as well as coordination, complementarity and non-duplication of such activities throughout the United Nations system;

3. Urges the United Nations organizations associated with the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control to collaborate further with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to integrate the drug control dimension and assistance into their programming and planning processes to ensure that the drug problem is being addressed in all its aspects in relevant programmes;

4. Takes note of the recent action taken by the Administrative Committee on Coordination to ensure the increased commitment by the specialized agencies, programmes and funds, as well as international financial institutions, to include the drug control dimension in their programmes of work;

5. Invites Member States to engage United Nations agencies and multilateral development banks in addressing the drug problem in all its aspects and to promote due consideration by governing bodies of requests for assistance for drug control programmes at the national level;

VI

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME

1. Welcomes the efforts of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to implement its mandates within the framework of the international drug control treaties, the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control,[2] the Global Programme of Action[3] and relevant consensus documents;

2. Welcomes the publication of the World Drug Report prepared by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

3. Notes with concern the decline of available resources for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

4. Welcomes Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 6 (XL) of 25 March 1997 concerning the revised budget for the biennium 1996-1997 and the

proposed outline for the biennium 1998-1999 of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, and urges all Governments to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the organization by widening the donor base of the Programme and increasing voluntary contributions, in particular general-purpose contributions, to enable it to continue, expand and strengthen its operational and technical cooperation activities;

5. Invites Governments and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to consider ways and means of improving the coordination of United Nations activities related to drug control;

6. Notes with appreciation the efforts made by the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to comply with the approved format and methodology of the programme budget of the Fund and to improve the budget presentation for the biennium 1996-1997 and the proposed outline for the biennium for 1998-1999, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the General Assembly and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and encourages the Executive Director to continue his efforts to improve the presentation of the budget;

7. Stresses the importance of the meetings of heads of national law enforcement agencies, and encourages them to consider ways to improve their functioning and to strengthen their impact so as to enhance cooperation in the fight against drugs at the regional level;

8. Stresses the need to strengthen United Nations activities in the field of narcotic drugs and takes note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/37 of 21 July 1997, entitled 'Review of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme: strengthening the United Nations machinery for international drug control within the scope of the existing international drug control treaties and in accordance with the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations';

VII

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;[14]

2. Requests the Secretary-General, taking into account the promotion of integrated reporting:

(a) To include in his annual report on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action recommendations on ways and means to improve implementation and provision of information by Member States;

(b) To submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session an updated report on the status of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.[15]

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[14] A/52/296.